

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after line 2, please insert as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after line 14, please insert as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 14, lines 5-17, as follows:

Examples

Preparation of Gelling Composition

Xanthan gum (Barazan DTM-BARAXAN DTM ex Baroid), 2.5 g, was weighed into a plastic weighing boat. 497.5g of filtered seawater (0.45 µm mesh), collected off the Dorset coast, was weighed out into a 1 litre beaker. A stirrer pellet (typically 30mm in length) was placed in the beaker which was then placed on a magnetic stirrer. The stirrer was switched on and the stirrer speed increased until a vortex was created in the seawater. The xanthan gum powder was then gradually introduced into the vortex. The resulting mixture was stirred until all of the powder had completely dissolved. 50 ml aliquots of this solution were then syringed into 4 oz powder jars.

2.5ml of a 20% active solution of scale inhibitor (Calnex CALNOX ML3263TM, (a 40% by weight solution (pH of 6) of a sodium salt of polyvinyl sulphonate polyacrylic acid copolymer) ex Baker Petrolite) in seawater was added to each sample jar. Once the scale inhibitor had been introduced, the lids were replaced, and the jars were shaken for 30 seconds.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 15, line 17-27, bridging page 16, lines 1-13, as follows:

Test Procedure

A sandpack of known liquid pore volume (of between 16.5 and 16.9 ml) was placed in the oven assembly and heated to a temperature of 120°C with the back pressure regulator set to a pressure of 80 barg. When the sandpack had reached the test temperature, 0.25 pore volumes (ca. 10 ml) of treatment fluid was pumped into the sandpack at a rate of 60 ml/hour. The treatment fluid was either a simulated seawater solution of Calnex-CALNOX ML3263TM (ex Baker Petrolite) having the same active content of scale inhibitor as the gelling composition prepared as described above (control experiment) or the gelling composition prepared as described above left to age for one hour following addition of the crosslinking agent solution (experiment according to the present invention). 0.25 pore volumes (ca. 10 ml) of simulated seawater was then pumped into the sandpack at a flow rate of 60 ml/hour. The sandpack was then closed off and maintained at a temperature of 120°C for 24 hours. After the shut in period, the sandpack was physically turned around in the oven assembly so that fluids could be injected into the sandpack in the reverse direction to simulate 'back' flow of a production well. Simulated seawater was then injected into the sandpack at a flow rate of 60 ml/hour for up to 8 hours and either 5 ml or 10 ml samples of the fluid effluent stream were collected for analysis.

The concentration of scale inhibitor (Calnex-CALNOX ML3263TM) in the eluted fluid effluent stream was determined by titrating a known volume of barium chloride

solution into the samples and measuring the turbidity developed after 3 minutes using a Hach turbidity meter. The turbidity reading was converted to a scale inhibitor concentration by reference to a previously determined calibrations curve. The results of these sandpack tests were given in Table 2 below.

Please amend Table 3 at page 19, as follows:

Table 3 – Injected Slugs

Treatment Stage	Slug	Volume (bbl)	Slug Composition
Preflush	1	500	Seawater with: 0.1% by volume of <u>Calnex CALNOX</u> ML3263 TM (scale inhibitor solution) ¹
Main Treatment	2	380	Seawater with: 2% by volume of <u>Calnex CALNOX</u> ML3263 TM (scale inhibitor solution) ¹ 0.5% by weight of Xanthan powder ² 2% by volume of SCW 85134 (sodium acetate/acetic acid buffer solution) ³
Main Treatment	3	1140	Seawater with: 2% by volume of <u>Calnex CALNOX</u> ML3263 TM (scale inhibitor solution) ¹ 0.5% by weight of Xanthan powder ² 2% by volume of SCW 85134 (sodium acetate/acetic acid buffer solution) ³ 0.5% by volume of SCW 85169

			(sodium zirconium lactate crosslinking agent solution) ⁴
Main Treatment	4	380	Seawater with: 2% by volume of <u>Calnex-CALNOX</u> ML3263 TM (scale inhibitor solution) ¹ 0.5% by weight of Xanthan powder ² 2% by volume of SCW 85134 (sodium acetate/acetic acid buffer solution) ³
Overflush	5	500	Seawater with 0.1% by volume of <u>CALNOX</u> ML3263 TM (scale inhibitor solution) ¹

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, lines 1-3 as follows:

1. Calnex-CALNOX ML 3263TM solution as supplied by Baker Petrolite from a first and a second "tote" tank wherein the volume of solution in the first and second tanks was 4546 and 2272 litres respectively.